

I oppose HB06667 and HB06816

As a fellow Connecticut resident, I ask you to please **oppose House Bill 06667 and 06816**

We know how to reduce violent crime without curtailing citizens' fundamental rights. Solving this problem merely takes the political will to do so. After all, a tiny and identifiable portion of the population is responsible for the bulk of the violence. Moreover, violent crime is most often geographically relegated to small and identifiable portions of a city.

A December 2021 report from Washington DC Metropolitan Police Department on perpetrators and victims of violence committed with firearms explained, "This small number of very high-risk individuals are identifiable, their violence is predictable, and therefore it is preventable". The report went on to state that, "likely no more than 200 people at any one given time are responsible for 60-70% of all gun violence" in a city of 670,000. Further, "Approximately 86% of homicide victims and suspects were known to the criminal justice system prior to the incident.

Connecticut has almost identical conditions. An article published by the Hartford Courant on February 14, 2023 stated: "In Hartford, 39% of those arrested for fatal and non-fatal shootings last year were out on bail when they shot somebody".

The article further states: "roughly 80% of all homicides and non-fatal shootings in Connecticut occur in Hartford, Bridgeport, New Haven, and Waterbury which accounted for 113 murders and 494 non-fatal shootings. Chief State's Attorney Patrick Griffin is quoted: "70% of convicted shooters and 70% of shooting victims were convicted felons."

These statistics make it painfully clear these criminals are NOT obtaining firearms through legal means.

Targeting the sliver of the population committing the lion's share of violent crime with vigorous prosecutions and incapacitating them with severe prison sentences, while providing the geographic hotspots for crime with robust policing, is the known solutions to our current mess. Forcing the vast majority of the population to suffer at the hands of criminals and forgo our constitutional rights in a losing battle against violent crime is unacceptable when we know what works.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carl Weber

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